

Application to THEAC, 2012

I have moved from a pre packaged curriculum to developing my own curriculum by using the Charlotte Mason method. I am sending this brief outline to update my home schooling status with THEAC.

We home school for two reasons.

1. To provide a safe and positive environment for the children to grow a love of learning.
2. To provide space and time for the children to learn in their own individual style.

We are using the Charlotte Mason method as the shorter lessons, focus on good literature (living books), using oral and written narration and spending time learning 'together' has helped us to learn and grow.

I have been and will continue to be the active family member in schooling the children.

I have gathered resources from varied places.

<http://www.homeschoolingdownunder.com/>

<http://www.simplycharlottemason.com/>

<http://www.apologia.com/>

The Development for Literacy Skills

B is doing 'Intermediate Language Lessons' by Emma Serl. This is a resource I have found from <http://www.homeschoolingdownunder.com/>. This is suitable for grades 4-6. At the moment B is doing part 2 which is suitable for grade 5. This includes poetry and prose, spelling and penmanship, letter writing, grammar, vocabulary exercises, making outlines, composition, reproduction and original work.

Next year she will begin 'Analytical Grammar.' <http://www.analyticalgrammar.com/> For Spelling we use Dictation. We use the book *Spelling Wisdom* purchased from <http://www.simplycharlottemason.com/> Dictation works well for us and B really likes it. B does 4 or 5 lessons twice a week.

For Handwriting we do Copy Work. Brielle does three pages out of *Down under Copy work* a day. She is doing the Advanced Cursive Book no. 3. Each lesson has classic fiction, poetry, songs, biographies, nature study and explorers' journals to copy.

J is doing 'Primary Language Lessons' By Emma Serl purchased from <http://www.homeschoolingdownunder.com/> It involves copy work, dictation and narration. Spelling, grammar and punctuation is taught in context with usage. Drills on correct forms of speech and words are given. There are 160 lessons in the book. Lessons of 20 minutes, 2 or 3 days a week for 30 weeks will finish the book in two years...faster if he wishes. After this is completed he will begin 'Intermediate Language Lessons'.

For Spelling J uses Dictation Down under. He completes one exercise a week from the book. It is aimed at ages 9-14. One lesson a week will complete a year's work. Each lesson has classic fiction, poetry, songs, biographies, nature study and explorers' journals to learn from.

For handwriting J does copy work. He completes three pages a day out of '*Down under copy work, Printing Book One.* Each lesson has classic fiction, poetry, songs, biographies, nature study and explorers' journals to copy.

Development of Numeracy Skills

We have chosen to use the *Math U See* curriculum for all our children. The children work separately. They do two lessons a week and do not move on until they have mastered the skill. Both children are starting on the level Alpha as I want to fill in gaps they have developed in their past learning. Each lesson takes 28 weeks to complete...so that will be around 2 levels a year. Math U See will give me much support in teaching the children. It involves a DVD, manipulative's and worksheets.

Social Interaction.

All my children have social activities they attend outside of schooling. B and J attend a scout meeting once a week and a gymnastic class once a week. This gives them opportunities to spend time with children who are not home schooled. Every Thursday we take the day off and attend a home school meet up. We have lunch with other families that home school. The children love this time playing and socializing. We also attend church every Saturday and they visit their great grand mother and grandparents once a week.

Methods for Evaluating Work.

Math involves revision sheets (tests)

Science involves a journal and activities.

History involves note booking (a wonderful learning and recording tool)

At this point there are no tests or revision for Language Lessons, but when 'Analytical Grammar' begins there are revision sheets (tests sheets) with the program.

I keep all school work. I take photos and videos to keep a record of how our system flows.

At the moment I am teaching Science, History and Geography together with Brielle and Joshua.

History. We are learning about Australian History at the moment. We have bought the book '*Our Sunburnt Country*' and also do readings from '*The Australia. Book.*' <http://www.homeschoolingdownunder/> has also provided us with the *Australian History Notebook*. This is done with reading from *Our Sunburnt Country*. B really enjoys this and J is about to start. When we finish this book and notebook (end of this year/early next year) we will begin reading '*The Story of the World; History for the Classical Child Vol. 1 Ancient Times*'. With this reading we will be note booking and doing oral narration.

We also read living books...stories written at the time of history we are reading. We will be reading living books that go with our history reading. These books are ;

We of the Never Never by Jeannie Gunn

Little black princess by Jeannine Gunn

A fortunate life by A.B.Facey

Science. We are using *Apologia Science Books*. These are lovely books that come with journals. We read the book together, discuss what we have learnt and then complete the activities in the journal. At the moment we are doing the *Astronomy* book. The children really enjoy this. There are two lessons in each level. The book takes 28 weeks to complete.

http://www.apologia.com/store/index.php?main_page=index&cPath=1

Geography. We are starting with Australia. I thought this would tie in well with our history reading. We are yet to start this subject but will be purchasing the *Australian Book Traveller* in a few days. This also comes with a map for each child. There are 11 core books aimed at ages 5-9 yrs. old. There are also 10 extension books that are aimed at ages 9-10. We read the stories about the different places around the country and we follow the stories on our map. The main reference resource is '*Our Sunburnt Country*,' which we use for our history as well.

http://www.homeschoolingdownunder.com/Unit_study_homeschool_resources/australian_book_traveller.html After this has been completed, which I estimate will be late this year and early next year, we will begin world geography.

Composer study, Poetry study, Nature Study and Picture study. These subjects are done once a week and done to break up the disciplinary subjects and provide activity, fun and movement.

Composer study. We study a composer every 6 weeks. We read about the composer and listen to a different piece of music each week.

Poetry study. We read about a poet and we read their poems for 6 weeks. Each week we read a different poem, draw a picture about it and discuss it.

Picture Study. Picture study is FUN! We focus on one artist every 6 weeks. We focus on one picture a week. It is placed up on the white board and we talk about it, look at it and then turn it over and try and remember the details. The children may even want to try and replicate the style of the painting.

We will also be implementing;

Nature Study. This teaches the children on so many levels. They learn to focus, they learn to look at detail and they learn about observation. Their artistic flare is inspired in their sketching..and they also learn how lovely it is to go outside amongst the trees and listen to the wind and the birds.

I will be using *The Wonderland of Nature* by Nuri Mass, gathered from http://www.homeschoolingdownunder.com/science_nature_homeschool_resources/the_wonderland_of_nature.html . This book will help us our ad about the garden. We also have a nature journal to record all our adventures.

Typing. B will begin a typing software program within the next few months.

Foreign Language. We will begin learning either 'Spanish' or 'German' within the next few months.

I do hope I have provided enough information on our schooling days and ways. I look forward to meeting the monitor on their visit soon.